THE LATTER-DAY SAINTS'

MILLENNIAL STAR

ESTABLISHED IN 1840

"He that prophesieth, let him prophesy to the understanding of men; for the Spirit speaketh the truth and lieth not. Wherefore, it speaketh of things as they really are, and of things as they really will be." BOOK OF MORMON, JACOB 4: 13.

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"A MARVELOUS WORK AND A WONDER"*

PRESIDENT HEBER J. GRANT

IT IS CERTAINLY AN INSPIRING SIGHT to see this magnificent audience in attendance here this morning at the ninety-eighth anniversary of the birth of the Church. When I contemplate the fact that just a handful of people were in the Church ninety-eight years ago—the organization was effected with six members—and that now there are over a half million members of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, I am reminded of the very wonderful revelation given to the father of the Prophet over a year before the organization of the Church:

Now behold, a marvelous work is about to come forth among the children of men.

Therefore, O ye that embark in the service of God, see that ye serve him with all your heart, might, mind and strength, that ye may stand blameless before God at the last day.

Therefore, if ye have desires to serve God ye are called to the work;

For behold the field is white already to harvest; and lo, he that thrusteth in his sickle with his might, the same layeth up in store that he perisheth not, but bringeth salvation to his soul;

And faith, hope, charity and love, with an eye single to the glory of God, qualify him for the work.

Remember faith, virtue, knowledge, temperance, patience, brotherly kindness, godliness, charity, humility, diligence.

Ask, and ye shall receive; knock, and it shall be opened unto you.

This audience testifies to the fact that a marvelous work and

*Address delivered at the opening session of the Ninety-eighth Annual Conference, in the Tabernacle, Salt Lake City, Utah, U.S.A., April 6th, 1928.

a wonder has been established. It testifies to the diligence of those who have gone forth by the thousands and tens of thousands, during the last ninety-eight years, proclaiming the Gospel in all parts of the world.

I had not the slightest idea of reading this revelation when I first stood up.

CHANGES IN WARDS, STAKES AND MISSIONS

It has always been customary at our annual conferences to give a little account of the activities of the Church during the past year.

Changes in stake and mission officers since last October conference:

Those who have been released have been released with the love, blessings and good will of the authorities of the Church and of the people where they reside.

Stake Presidents Appointed: Uriah G. Miller has been honourably released as President of the Cottonwood Stake, and Henry D. Moyle appointed to succeed him. Samuel W. Parkinson has been honourably released as President of the Franklin Stake, and Walter K. Barton appointed to succeed him. Joseph R. Murdock has been honourably released as President of the Wasatch Stake, and David A. Broadbent appointed to succeed him. John E. Magleby has been honourably released as President of the South Sevier Stake, and appointed President of the New Zealand Mission. A new stake president has not yet been sustained.

Mission Presidents Appointed: Andrew Johnson has been released as President of the Swedish Mission, and Gideon N. Hulterstrom appointed to succeed him. Apostle James E. Talmage has been released as President of the European Mission, and Apostle John A. Widtsoe appointed to succeed him. J. Howard Jenkins has been released as President of the New Zealand Mission, and John E. Magleby appointed to succeed him. John M. Knight has been released as President of the Western States Mission, and Elias S. Woodruff appointed to succeed him. John H. Taylor has been released as President of the Northern States Mission, and Noah S. Pond appointed to succeed him. Hugh J. Cannon has been released as President of the Swiss-German Mission, and Fred Tadje appointed to succeed him.

New Wards Organized: Manchester Ward, Los Angeles Stake; Tempe Ward, Maricopa Stake; Idaho Falls First and Second Wards, Idaho Falls Stake, divided into four wards to be known as Idaho Falls First, Second, Third and Fourth Wards; Phoenix Ward, Maricopa Stake, divided into two wards to be known as the Phoenix First and Second Wards; Solomonville Ward, St. Joseph Stake, formerly an independent branch; Ocean Park Ward, Hollywood Stake, divided into two wards. The name of

Ocean Park Ward changed to Santa Monica, and the new ward known as Mar Vista Ward.

Bishops Who Have Died: Hyrum M. Lau of Soda Springs Ward, Idaho Stake; Henry J. Bodily of the Iona Ward, Idaho Falls Stake; Alfred R. Wilson of Payson First Ward, Nebo Stake.

We have at the present time: Stakes of Zion, 99; wards, 938; independent branches, 72.

Total wards and branches in the stakes of Zion, from Canada to Mexico, 1,010; missions, 27; mission branches, 750.

FINANCIAL STATEMENT

The following is a list of expenditures from the tithes of the Church for the year 1927:

Stake and Ward Purposes: There has been returned from the tithes to the stakes and wards for building construction, maintenance and operation, $2,041,920.46. Of this amount there has been expended for meeting houses alone, $1,062,100.

Education: Expended for the construction and operation of Church schools, $805,117.84.

Temples: Expended for the construction, maintenance and operation of temples, $230,110.77.

Charities: For the care of the worthy poor and other charitable purposes, including hospital treatment, $196,119.48.

Missions: For the maintenance and operation of all the missions, and for the erection of places of worship and other buildings in the missions, $767,647.80.

Total, $4,040,916.35.

This amount has been taken from the tithes and returned by the Trustee-in-Trust to the Saints for the maintenance and operation of the stakes and wards, for the maintenance and operation of Church schools and temples, for charities, and for mission activities.

Other Charities: In addition to charities paid from the tithes, as before named, there has also been disbursed the fast offerings, other charities, and assistance rendered by the Relief Society, in the sum of $441,575.89, which amount, added to the $196,119.48 paid from the tithes, makes the total charity assistance rendered by the Church, $637,695.37.

There has been collected by the various wards of the Church and paid to missionaries to assist in their maintenance, $98,143.56.

MISSIONARY, SOCIAL AND OTHER STATISTICS

Statistical and other reports compiled from the Church records for the year 1927:

Church Growth: Children blessed and entered on the records of the Church in the stakes and missions, 19,209; children baptized in the stakes and missions, 14,604; converts baptized and entered on the records of the stakes and missions, 6,367.

Number of long-term missionaries from Zion, December 31, 1927, 1,943; number of short-term missionaries from Zion, December 31, 1927, 122; number of local missionaries, 108; total number of missionaries on foreign missions, 2,173; number engaged in missionary work in stakes, 1,032; total missionaries, 3,205.

Number of missionaries who received training at the Missionary Home, 985.

Persons recommended to the temples, 61,567.

Social Statistics: Birth rate, 30 per thousand; marriage rate, 14.5 per thousand; death rate, 7.5 per thousand; families owning their own homes, 70 per cent.

Church Edifices: The number of sites purchased for Church buildings, and the number of edifices purchased, or under construction during 1927: Stakes and wards, 119; missions, 32; total, 151.

RELIGIOUS TRAINING AND EDUCATION

Church Education: Number of persons enrolled in Church schools, 3,851; number of persons enrolled in seminaries, 10,835; number of persons enrolled in religion classes, 61,131; total number receiving week-day religious education, 75,817.

Teacher training, average attendance, 1927, 10,670.

During the year the very efficient man who stood at the head of our educational system for a number of years, Dr. Adam S. Bennion, has been honorably released, with appreciation for his most splendid work, and Dr. Joseph F. Merrill has been made the Commissioner of Education for the Church. Dr. Merrill has been associated with the University of Utah for many years as one of the deans of that great institution.

During the last six months the Clerk of our General Conferences, and the Editor of the *Improvement Era*, Elder Edward H. Anderson, has passed away, than whom no more capable, faithful, diligent, God-fearing man has ever been engaged in the service of the Lord in the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. Brother Hugh J. Cannon, now presiding over the Swiss-German Mission, has been selected to succeed Brother Anderson as the Editor of the *Improvement Era*—a most splendid successor to a most splendid man.

I feel that we have great cause to be grateful for the blessings of the Lord to us as a people.

"WE THANK THEE, O GOD, FOR A PROPHET"

I was profoundly impressed this morning in listening to the congregation sing "We Thank Thee, O God, for a Prophet." I am sure that whenever we, as Latter-day Saints, sing this hymn our minds go back to the time when it was written, and we think of the marvelous and wonderful work accomplished by the Prophet Joseph Smith. I am going to take the time, although you all

know it by heart, perhaps, to read this hymn. I do not think I have ever done so before in public in my life:

We thank Thee, O God, for a prophet,
To guide us in these latter days;
We thank Thee for sending the Gospel
To lighten our minds with its rays;
We thank Thee for every blessing
Bestowed by thy bounteous hand;
We feel it a pleasure to serve Thee,
And love to obey thy command.

When dark clouds of trouble hang o'er us
And threaten our peace to destroy,
There is hope smiling brightly before us,
And we know that deliverance is nigh;
We doubt not the Lord nor His goodness,
We've proved Him in days that are past;
The wicked who fight against Zion
Will surely be smitten at last.

We'll sing of His goodness and mercy,
We'll praise Him by day and by night,
Rejoice in His glorious Gospel,
And bask in its life-giving light;
Thus on to eternal perfection
The honest and faithful will go,
While they who reject this glad message
Shall never such happiness know.

AN EMINENT WRITER ON JOSEPH SMITH

Speaking of the Prophet Joseph, an eminent writer refers to him in the following language:

Yet, he being dead yet speaketh. The work he began has never ceased. . . .

Who can explain Joseph Smith? What are "revelations from God"? What is their test? Is it not beyond all reason that a lad born of poor parents, devoid of any save the commonest education, too poor to buy books, should have accomplished what he did in less than forty years, unless there were some great reason for it?

Let anyone, even a literary genius, *after* forty years of life, try to write a companion volume to the Book of Mormon, and then almost daily for a number of years give out "revelations" by the score that internally harmonize one with another, and at the same time formulate a system of doctrine for a new church, introduce many new principles, resuscitate extinct priesthoods, and formulate a system of church government which has no superior on earth.

Would he succeed in making the system coherent? Could he influence scores of intelligent, wise, thoughtful, educated, religiously trained men, like John Taylor, Dr. Richards, and scores of others, besides attracting thousands to the fold of his church, as did Joseph Smith? Even if one were assured that the Prophet was an impostor, that does not lessen the

marvel. The mystery, the riddle, the problem, is even greater than before. . . .

I offer no explanation. . . .

To deny to such a man a wonderful power over the human heart and intellect is absurd. Only fanatical prejudice can ignore it. However he may be accounted for by the reasoning mind, Joseph Smith, the "Mormon" Prophet, was one of the wonders of his time. That he is not an enigma to his followers (as he certainly is to his critics) is only another proof of his wonderfulness.

(*Continued on page 283*)

THE NINETY-EIGHTH ANNUAL CONFERENCE

NOW BEHOLD, a marvelous work is about to come forth among the children of men.

Thus spake the Lord through Joseph Smith, His chosen prophet of the last days; and the fulfilment thereof was shown forth at the Ninety-eighth Annual Conference of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, which was held in the Tabernacle and other buildings of the Church at Salt Lake City, Utah, U. S. A., beginning promptly at 10 o'clock Friday morning, April 6th, and terminating Sunday afternoon, April 8th.

President Heber J. Grant, the seventh earthly head of the Church of Jesus Christ of this dispensation, and a living prophet of the Lord, presided and conducted throughout the general sessions. Associated with him were the other General Authorities of the Church, including the First Presidency, the Council of the Twelve, the Presiding Patriarch, the First Council of the Seventies and the Presiding Bishopric, twenty-four of whom were present, the two exceptions being Apostle Reed Smoot, who was engaged with affairs of the United States Senate in Washington, D.C., and Apostle John A. Widtsoe, who is in these lands presiding over the European Mission.

Many thousands of men and women heard and witnessed the services in the Tabernacle and the Assembly Hall; many thousands more thronged the Temple Square and there listened to the proceedings, while tens of thousands received the conference messages in their homes by radio.

The President's message, the opening address of the conference, is reproduced in full in this number of the *Millennial Star*. Other speakers included the General Authorities, stake presidents, mission presidents and special workers. Dr. Roy O. Wyland, Director of Education of the National Council of the Boy Scouts of America, also addressed one session. A selection of these discourses will be reprinted in this publication as opportunity affords.

Thanksgiving and praise to God and commendation of the members for growth, prosperity and favourable conditions of the

Church; fervent appeals for greater diligence in seeking genealogical data, in doing temple work, in more strictly observing the Word of Wisdom and the law of tithing, in teaching the youth of the land principles of truth and right, thereby counteracting the skepticism and atheism that is rampant in the world; praise for the educational, charitable and building activities of the Church; commendation for the cooperation given the Boy Scout and other helpful movements of young people; comments upon the Hill Cumorah purchase; messages concerning the Book of Mormon as a witness to the world, concerning daily religious training, missionary endeavour, the relationship of Priesthood to auxiliary organizations; admonition for law observance and law enforcement; urgent appeal to seek and choose men of integrity for political office regardless of political party; solemn and soul-convincing testimonies of the divinity of Jesus of Nazareth, of the reality of the latter-day restoration, of the divine calling of Joseph Smith and the inspiration and authority of each succeeding head of the Church in this dispensation—by such sound, practical, life-giving precepts, doctrines, counsel, admonition and witnesses of truth were the addresses of the Ninety-eighth Annual Conference characterized.

The mighty congregational singing of ten thousand earnest voices, accompanied by the rich, vibrant tones of the world-famed organ, together with special numbers by soloists and selections by the Tabernacle choir, was one soul-stirring addition to the spoken word.

While the large gatherings were of chief interest to conference attenders, they were by no means the only meetings of importance that were held. Scores of smaller gatherings, of those bearing the Holy Priesthood, of workers in the Relief Society, Sunday School, Mutual Improvement, Primary, Religion Class, and Genealogical organizations, convened. Meetings of Seminary workers, Church school workers, special meetings of mission presidents, stake presidents and bishops of wards, were held. Missionary reunions and social functions of varied descriptions had place at the Ninety-eighth, as at all General Conferences, and the Church offices, buildings, meeting-rooms and recreation halls were engaged many days previous to and following April 6th, the ninety-eighth anniversary of organization.

If departure from a conventional report of minutes and proceedings may be pardoned, let it be said that to see such numbers of energetic, thinking men and women, from all nations, gather to hear words of truth, to be upbuilded temporally and spiritually, is to be convinced that divine wisdom provided for frequent conference gatherings in the Church of Jesus Christ.

KNOW whether you ought to do a thing or not, and if you ought not, let it alone.—BRIGHAM YOUNG.

THE LATTER-DAY SAINTS' MILLENNIAL STAR

THURSDAY, MAY 3, 1928

EDITORIAL

A LIVING CHURCH!

RIGHTEOUS PRIDE may justly fill the hearts of all true Latter-day Saints in all nations of earth, as they read of and contemplate the growth, progress and achievement of the Church during the year 1927, as shown by the report read at General Conference by President Heber J. Grant. But that feeling of pride may not well partake of anything akin to boastfulness or individual satisfaction, for the notable accomplishment has been that of the Church collectively, of its members working unitedly, not severally.

After having duly considered and accredited all human effort, however, the underlying factor of success is yet to be considered—men bearing the Holy Priesthood, with a living prophet as leader, have directed the Church in its course; the power of God is operative in the Church of Jesus Christ of this dispensation. It is a living Church guided by the Lord through living oracles!

Well known to the Latter-day Saints are the stock arguments arrayed by a skeptical world against living oracles in a living church at this age of the world's history. The cry is: The heavens are sealed; the book of scripture is closed; prophets are done away; spiritual gifts no longer exist. But these baseless arguments are their own refutation. The absence of living oracles from a few decades after the crucifixion until the early part of the nineteenth century was due to the benighted condition of the world, scripturally foreshadowed and actually fulfilled, and not to any changed order in the heavens.

From Adam, the mortal father of the race, to Jesus Christ, its Redeemer, the Lord, through prophets and bearers of the Holy Priesthood, sent forth words of warning and guidance to mankind, as occasion demanded. Written fragments of such dealings of God with man are preserved to us in the scriptures. Admittedly, men who lived upon this sphere during former centuries of its occupancy by the human race needed and received heaven-sent wisdom. Is this, then, the otherwise most enlightened age of history, denied such direction? The rise and progress of the latter-day Church of the Lord, and the changed thought and action in all the world since its reestablishment in 1830, afford ample reason for an emphatic negative answer.

Every movement of the Church witnesses that each bearer of

the Holy Priesthood within its ranks, when acting according to his calling and in the line of his duty, is entitled to and receives inspiration, which, if followed, leads unerringly aright. Particularly is this true of those who, because of divine calling and appointment, stand at the head; and more particularly is it true of the President of the Church, who is the veritable mouthpiece of God upon earth, and whose words, when he speaks in the name of the Lord, are as binding upon all mankind as ever were the words of the prophets of old. Such being the case, when these chosen servants speak authoritatively, all men would do well to listen and to shape their actions thereby.

It is not to be thought that the infallibility of any man or group of men is herein set forth. Where humanity is involved, infallibility is a stranger. No mortal is to be worshipped or to be looked upon as anything more than mortal; but the power of God, wherever it is manifest, cannot too carefully be heeded. To relate an incident in the life of David, the shepherd king, may not be far afield:

Of the unworthiness of Saul, Israel's king, he was well aware, and of the monarch's many attempts upon his life he knew; yet when opportunity for him to slay Saul in sleep presented itself, he merely cut a piece from the garment of the monarch, and "David's heart smote him because he had cut off Saul's skirt. And he said unto his men, The Lord forbid that I should do this thing unto my master, the Lord's anointed, to stretch forth mine hand against him, seeing that he is the anointed of the Lord." No personal regard influenced the actions of David as did the knowledge that Saul was appointed of God.

A living Church, such as the Church of Jesus Christ is, has always been, and ever will be, is presided over by the Lord's anointed, is vitalized by the Holy Priesthood, the power and authority of God, embodies eternal principles, gifts, keys and powers manifest in all other dispensations, upbuilds its members and brings peace to their souls. In such manner is its unequalled and ever-increasing achievement accounted for; and men and women in all nations thank God for the living Church of this dispensation and for the living oracles through whom it is directed.

RICHARD L. EVANS

IT IS IN THE ORDER of heavenly things that God should always send a new dispensation into the world when men have apostatized from the truth and lost the Priesthood; but when men come out and build upon other men's foundations, they do it on their own responsibility, without authority from God; and when the floods come and the winds blow, their foundations will be found to be sand, and their whole fabric will crumble to dust.—JOSEPH SMITH.

WELSH CONFERENCE

A BEAUTIFUL DAY and an exceptionally large attendance contributed to the success of the Welsh Spring Conference, which was held in the Workman's Hall and Institute, Caerphilly, Glamorganshire, on Sunday, April 22nd. Although there are no members of the Church residing in Caerphilly, over fifty-two per cent. of the enrolled members of the District were in attendance during the day. At the evening meeting sixty-five per cent. of the congregation were investigators, many of whom expressed themselves as being impressed with the sincerity of the testimonies borne by the speakers.

The unusually large number of inquirers present may be attributed partly to a systematic advertizing campaign. The quaint, historical town, in which Welsh peasantry is typified, was made alive with interest in "Mormonism." Bold circulars bearing the caption "'Mormonism'—Its Faith and Teachings to be Explained, etc.," placarded the main streets; handbills were distributed from door to door, and newspapers heralded the message of the coming conference throughout the vicinity of Caerphilly.

President John A. Widtsoe, Sister Leah D. Widtsoe, Eudora Widtsoe, Elders Ralph V. Chisholm and Weston W. Taylor were in attendance from Mission headquarters. President Nathaniel E. Parry of the Welsh District and the following traveling missionaries were present: Elders David M. Davis, Clifton G. M. Kerr, Robert L. Bradford, A. Faron Spackman and Edward E. Morgan.

The morning conference theme was centered upon reasons for the coming forth of the Book of Mormon, and was treated in an interesting manner by the Sunday School children. In his remarks at this gathering President Widtsoe stated that the Gospel of Jesus Christ is for all who are righteous enough to obey its principles.

A statistical report of work accomplished in Wales during the last six months was given in the afternoon session by District President Nathaniel E. Parry. Sister Widtsoe pleaded the necessity for continued revelation to keep mankind instructed in the essentials that will again bring them into the presence of their Father in heaven. President Widtsoe gave the answer of the Gospel of Jesus Christ to three of life's most vital questions: Whence came I? Why am I here? Whither am I going?

In the evening session the Mission President declared that the purpose of the Gospel is to bring joy to humanity—physical, mental and spiritual joy. Sister Widtsoe told of the equality of men and women in the Gospel of Jesus Christ, and spoke of the home and family as the most important institutions of human life.

The traveling missionaries were called upon to make brief remarks during the three large gatherings; they bore earnest testimonies to the truthfulness of the restored Gospel. Between general sessions Priesthood and auxiliary meetings were held, and a missionary meeting convened on the following day.

CLIFTON G. M. KERR, District Clerk

"A MARVELOUS WORK AND A WONDER"

(*Concluded from page 278*)

I will read a part of section one hundred and thirty-five, Doctrine and Covenants:

THE SEALING OF A TESTIMONY

To seal the testimony of this book and the Book of Mormon, we announce the martyrdom of Joseph Smith the Prophet, and Hyrum Smith the Patriarch. They were shot in Carthage jail, on the 27th of June, 1844. . . .

Joseph Smith, the Prophet and Seer of the Lord, has done more, save Jesus only, for the salvation of men in this world, than any other man that ever lived in it. In the short space of twenty years, he has brought forth the Book of Mormon, which he translated by the gift and power of God, and has been the means of publishing it on two continents; has sent the fulness of the everlasting gospel, which it contained, to the four quarters of the earth; has brought forth the revelations and commandments which compose this book of Doctrine and Covenants, and many other wise documents and instructions for the benefit of the children of men; gathered many thousands of the Latter-day Saints, founded a great city, and left a fame and a name that cannot be slain. He lived great, and he died great in the eyes of God and his people; and like most of the Lord's anointed in ancient times, has sealed his mission and his works with his own blood; and so has his brother Hyrum. In life they were not divided, and in death they were not separated!

When Joseph went to Carthage to deliver himself up to the pretended requirements of the law, two or three days previous to his assassination, he said: "I am going like a lamb to the slaughter; but I am calm as a summer's morning; I have a conscience void of offense towards God, and towards all men. I shall die innocent, and it shall yet be said of me—he was murdered in cold blood."

ARIZONA TEMPLE DEDICATED

I rejoice in the testimony of the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ. During the last year it has fallen to my lot to have the privilege of visiting from here to New York, and in the northern section of the country, and to have the blessed privilege of going into Arizona and there dedicating one more temple to the Most High God. I rejoice in the rich outpouring of the Spirit of the Lord that was enjoyed by those of us who had the opportunity of attending the dedicatory services of that temple. I rejoice ex-

ceedingly in the remarkable publicity that was given to us by the newspapers of Arizona.

Never in the history of the Church has there ever been manifest a more friendly feeling toward the Latter-day Saints by those not of us than was exhibited by the good people of Arizona. They devoted page after page of their papers to an account of the erection of the temple, in publishing a sermon upon the vicarious labour for the dead by Elder Joseph Fielding Smith, in giving illustrations and in having interviews of a favourable character.

In addition the President of the Church and some of those who were at the dedication services were invited to meet with the legislature that was then in session, and the President of the Senate made some very complimentary remarks regarding the splendid edifice—one of the finest buildings in Arizona. He also complimented the people themselves on their integrity and their remarkable accomplishments in that section of the country.

I could not help but contemplate the difference in conditions as compared with the time when there was a feeling of animosity, almost of hatred, existing in the minds of the people of the State of Arizona regarding the Latter-day Saints. I rejoiced in being able to pay tribute, in answer to the speech by the President of the Senate, to the Senators of the United States from Arizona and their defense of the "Mormon" people, and their uniform testimony of the integrity and devotion of our people.

PURCHASE OF HILL CUMORAH

Within a short time the Church has purchased the Hill Cumorah. The purchase embraces the farm where the hill stands, and the adjoining farm, which, together with one that we had already purchased, including a part of the hill, gives us now entire possession of the Hill Cumorah. I know that the hearts of the Latter-day Saints thrilled with pride when the announcement was made that we had secured this property. We now have the home where the Prophet was born, and have erected a monument there. We now have the house and farm of Peter Whitmer, where the Church was born. We now have the Palmyra home. We have nearly all of the spots that are sacred in the history of the Church; and we rejoice in the financial condition of the Church whereby we have been able to accomplish these things.

TEMPLE WORK

I rejoice in the temple work that is being done, and I wish to ask the Saints to try to shape their affairs so that they can occasionally go to the temple. For years I felt that I was too busy to find a day or an evening in which to go to the temple. A little over a year ago I made up my mind that by planning my affairs, by staying away from lectures or concerts or theatres or operas, that I could go to the temple at least once every week and have

ordinances performed in behalf of some of my loved ones who had passed away. By making up my mind that I could do this I had no difficulty whatever in going through the temple once a week during the entire year. Starting this year I felt that by a little extra effort I could go twice a week, and I have had no difficulty in doing this. True, I have had to miss, perhaps, an opera or theatre or some other function at which I should have liked to be present, but I have had no difficulty whatever during the past three months in going to the temple twice a week, and when I can do so, I go more than twice a week, so as to make up the time when I am absent from the city. Up to the first day of April I had endowments to my credit of more than two a week for this year. We can generally do that which we wish to do. A young man can find an immense amount of time to spend with his sweetheart; he can arrange his affairs to do that. We can arrange our affairs to get exercise in the shape of golf and otherwise; we can arrange our affairs to have amusements; and if we make up our minds to do so we can arrange our affairs to do temple work, judging from my own experience of the last fifteen months.

I pray that the Lord will inspire each and all of us to greater diligence in performing to the full extent of our ability the duties and the labours that devolve upon us in doing vicarious work for our dead.

A PROMISE FULFILLED—GENEALOGICAL DATA

A very wonderful declaration was made by Moroni to the Prophet Joseph Smith one hundred and five years ago this coming September:

> Behold, I will reveal unto you the Priesthood, by the hand of Elijah the prophet, before the coming of the great and dreadful day of the Lord.

And the Priesthood with all its powers, rights and privileges has been restored to us. Elijah has come. I will not take your time to read from the one hundred and tenth section of the Doctrine and Covenants, which declares that the Saviour appeared to Joseph Smith and to Oliver Cowdery, and that Moses and Elias and Elijah also appeared and conferred upon them all the keys of all the dispensations of the Gospel that have ever existed upon the earth.

> And he shall plant in the hearts of the children the promises made to the fathers, and the hearts of the children shall turn to their fathers.
>
> If it were not so, the whole earth would be utterly wasted at his coming.

No more wonderful thing has ever been accomplished in the history of the world than the turning of the hearts of the children to their fathers. From the day this message was declared by Moroni to the Prophet Joseph, men and women all over the world

have been organizing societies, hunting up their ancestors, and compiling genealogical records of their families. Millions of dollars have been expended for these purposes. I have spoken to, and heard many times of men who have spent large sums of money to compile a record of their forefathers, and after it was compiled, when asked why they did it, they said: "I do not know; I was seized with an irresistible desire to compile that record and to spend money freely to do it. Now that it is compiled I have no special use for it."

The Latter-day Saints value books of that kind beyond price or money, and when we seek earnestly, year after year, to gain knowledge regarding those of our family who have passed away without a knowledge of the Gospel, I am sure the Lord blesses us in obtaining it. There is a little account of a remarkable and wonderful blessing bestowed in connection with the ancestors of my wife which is contained in the last issue of the *Genealogical Magazine*.

That the Lord may bless you and me and every soul that has an abiding testimony of the divinity of the Gospel in which we are engaged, to whom He has given a knowledge that He lives and that Jesus is the Son of the living God, the Redeemer of the world, and that Joseph Smith was His prophet, so to order our lives that our light shining forth through the example of our lives may bring those who know not the truth to a knowledge of the Gospel, is my humble prayer, and I ask it in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ, our Redeemer. Amen.

WHAT THE BOOK OF MORMON MEANS TO ME*

Elder George H. Bailey

As the oasis rises upon the horizon of the barren desert and beckons the weary traveler to come and take rest and refreshment, and to receive strength to renew his perilous journey across the sandy wastes, so does the Book of Mormon rise upon the horizon of mortality and beckon me to come and partake of the eternal truths contained therein, so that I may be fortified against the evils besetting my journey through life and be safely led to the goal eternal.

I have perused the pages of the book and find it to be a new witness of Jesus Christ. Six hundred years before His birth, as recorded in the Book of Mormon, holy men spake as they were moved upon by the Holy Spirit and testified of His coming and of the purpose of His mission, and exhorted the people to repentance

*Delivered at the inter-branch competition of the Sheffield District Mutual Improvement Associations, held at Sheffield, Easter Monday, April 9th, 1928.

that they might reap the blessings of His atoning sacrifice: they predicted that signs would be given them both of His advent into and exit out of mortality.

My soul is thrilled when I read how those predictions were fulfilled, as Christ came into the world, a light to outshine darkness; and in that distant land [the American Continent] the light on the night of His coming outshone the darkness. With the passage of time came the sacrifice at Calvary and a sign to those people; yea, a sign of horror—the warnings of the prophets had been unheeded, the wrath of God incurred and judgment carried out. Mighty convulsions of the earth caused death and devastation, followed by three days of intense darkness, accompanied by a voice crying: "Wo unto the inhabitants of the whole earth except they shall repent." Then darkness was dispersed, and a voice again was heard, saying: "Behold my Beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased, in whom I have glorified my name—hear ye him." Then the resurrected Christ appeared, thus fulfilling His own prophetic utterance: "Other sheep I have, which are not of this fold: them also I must bring, and they shall hear my voice; and there shall be one fold, and one shepherd."

It was He whose mighty work among the Nephite people on the American Continent—performing miracles, establishing His Church and teaching His doctrines exactly as He had taught them throughout Judea—has strengthened my faith in God. My relationship with Him is made plain, unto the filling of my soul with joy; for I know that at the last day I shall stand before Him in the flesh, knowing full well that, if I have lived according to the word as it is written in the Book of Mormon, I shall have life eternal. Its teachings serve as a guide in unfolding many of the precious truths contained in the Bible which I have otherwise found difficult to understand; each book is a witness of the divine origin of the other.

I have learned from its pages the power of obedience. Witness the case of Nephi obtaining the plates from Laban. In spite of the murmurings of his brethren he uttered these immortal words: "I will go and do the things which the Lord hath commanded, for I know that the Lord giveth no commandments unto the children of men, save he shall prepare a way for them that they may accomplish the thing which he commandeth them." God had spoken; the faithful youth obeyed; the object was achieved.

Through that one act of obedience there has sprung up amid the sands of apostasy, which have these many years made this earth a desert barren of the word of God, an oasis yielding forth a fulness of the everlasting Gospel, feeding truth to the soul that hungers for truth and marking the way through this desert of mystical doubt back home to the Eternal Father.

This, in brief, is what a fuller knowledge of the Book of Mormon means to me; and yet, I feel that a mighty ocean of truth

is before me; the surface I have just skimmed to gain these precious truths that have impregnated themselves upon my soul—there is yet the mighty deep to explore.

FROM THE MISSION FIELD

Arrivals: Elder Fred M. Tadje arrived at Cherbourg aboard the *Leviathan* on April 20th to take up his duties as President of the Swiss-German Mission as the successor to President Hugh J. Cannon. President Tadje was accompanied by Sister Tadje and their family.

Doings in the Districts: *Hull*—The traveling missionaries of the Hull District convened in report meeting at Cleethorpes on April 20th. Plans for an extensive summer campaign were effected. A social gathering was held in the Thrift Hall, Grimsby, on Friday, April 20th, under the direction of the Relief Society.

Appointment: At a special meeting of traveling missionaries and other members of the Church residing in the Leeds District, which was held in Bradford, Wednesday evening, April 25th, Elder Merrill Sandberg, who has been acting president since the departure of President Elmer O. Zollinger, was formally installed as President of the Leeds District by President John A. Widtsoe, who, with Sister Leah D. Widtsoe and Elder Richard L. Evans, traveled from Mission headquarters in Liverpool to be present. Short Priesthood and Relief Society meetings followed the general gathering.

DEATH

WHITFIELD—Sister Florence Harrison Whitfield of the Grimsby Branch, Hull District, died on April 18th at the age of fifty-three. During her twenty-nine years in the Church Sister Whitfield rendered faithful service. Funeral services were held at the family residence on April 21st, under the direction of President Veronus M. Jensen, who also spoke, with Elders DeLamar Holt and Roy Allen, and dedicated the grave.

CONTENTS

"A Marvelous Work and a Wonder" 273
The Ninety-eighth Annual Conference 278
Editorial: A Living Church! ... 280
Welsh Conference... 282
What the Book of Mormon Means to Me 286
From the Mission Field 288

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LIVERPOOL

FOR SALE IN ALL THE DISTRICTS OF THE CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST OF LATTER-DAY SAINTS IN GREAT BRITAIN